

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 TAR-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 AGR-20 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /177 W
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R 132046Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7303

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 01014

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XM PFOR ETRD OCON (EBERLE) BB

SUBJ: EBERLE MISSION VISIT

REF: STATE 106679

1. EMBASSY HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DISCUSSED EBERLE MISSION'S CONSULTATIONS WITH PERMANENT SECRETARIES AND WITH WORKING LEVEL OFFICERS IN MINISTRIES CONCERNED. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT GOB IS BY AND LARGE APPRECIATIVE OF U.S. EFFORTS TO AFFORD BARBADOS AND OTHER REGIONAL STATES OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON TRADE MATTERS AT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL. WE FELT THAT EBERLE MISSION VISIT HAS DONE MUCH TO ALLEVIATE IMPRESSION SOMETIMES VOICED HERE THAT U.S. IS RELATIVELY INSENSITIVE TO TRADE NEEDS OF SMALLER STATES OF CARIBBEAN AND ELSEWHERE.

2. SOME IN GOB CONTINUE TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT GOB EXTERNAL
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AFFAIRS MINISTER GEORGE MOE'S SUCCESSFUL INSISTENCE THAT MAIN

CARICOM-EBERLE DISCUSSION BE AT WORKING RATHER THAN MINISTERIAL LEVEL (ALTHOUGH MINISTERIAL-LEVEL WORKING LUNCH WAS HELD WITH EBERLE MISSION PRINCIPALS). BOH TRADE AND FINANCE MINISTRIES HERE HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED PRIVATELY THAT THEY DISAGREE WITH ABOVE DECISION, MAINTAINING THAT MINISTERIAL PARTICIPATION WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE AND USEFUL. MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING SOURCE STATES THAT ONE EFFECT OF SQUABBLE WAS TO CONVINCE BOTH TRADE AND FINANCE MINISTRIES THAT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CURRENTLY HAS TOO MUCH AUTHORITY IN ECONOMIC AND TRADE MATTERS, MANY OF WHICH ARE BEYOND COMPETENCE OF EXTAFF. KEY SOURCE STATED THAT OTHER CONCERNED MINISTRIES SHOULD NOW MOVE TO ACQUIRE MORE CONTROL IN THESE AREAS, AT EXPENSE OF EXTAFF, IF NECESSARY.

3. WE ARE STILL UNCLEAR AS TO FULL BACKGROUND BEHIND CARICOM DECISION TO LIMIT EBERLE CONSULTATIONS TO WORKING LEVEL. WE SUSPECT THAT RIVALRY BETWEEN MOE AND TRADE MINISTER BRANFORD TAITT MAY BE AT LEAST PARTLY RESPONSIBLE. ALSO, MOE, WHO IS CONCURRENTLY ATTORNEY GENERAL, HAS VERY LEGALISTIC MIND WHICH MAY HAVE LED TO HIS RESTRICTIVE INTERPRETATION OF MEXICO CITY MEETING DOCUMENTS REGARDING FUTURE CONSULTATIONS.

4. NOTWITHSTANDING SQUABBLE OVER LEVEL OF CONSULTATIONS, SUBSTANTIVE WORKING LEVEL PEOPLE IN GOB AND PRIVATE BUSINESS HERE APPRECIATE U.S. EFFORTS TO AFFORD BARBADOS AND OTHER REGIONAL STATES HIGH-LEVEL ACCESS TO U.S. POLICY-MAKING OFFICIALS. EBERLE MISSION'S CONSULTATIONS HAVE SHOWN THAT U.S. IS SENSITIVE AND CONCERNED ABOUT TRADE NEEDS OF REGIONAL STATES.

5. GOB TRADE MINISTRY HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ASSURED US THAT IT WILL SUBMIT LIST OF POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR GSP BEFORE JUNE 30 DEADLINE.
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Message Attributes

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